

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03357 021209Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 ACDE-00 /057 W
-----087786 021221Z /23

O 021134Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9895
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 3357

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, IN, PK, US
SUBJECT: INDIAN ACQUISITION OF DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE
AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) NEW DELHI A-36 (B) ISLAMABAD 2041

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES ISLAMABAD'S SUGGESTION (REF B)
THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE
COMPARATIVE AIR STRENGTH OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND THE
EFFECT ON IT OF INDIA'S ACQUIRING DEEP PENETRATION
STRIKE AIRCRAFT (DPSA). DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT OUR
OWN STUDY AGREES WITH ISLAMABAD'S SUPPOSITION THAT AN
INDIAN DPSA FORCE WOULD INCREASE THE EXISTING DISPARITY
IN INDIA'S FAVOR. OUR COMPARISON OF THE PAF'S MIRAGE V
AND THE JAGUAR (AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DPSA INDIA SEEKS)
WHICH CONCLUDES THAT THE BASIC AIRCRAFT ARE ESSENTIALLY
SIMILAR WAS, OF COURSE, BASED ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
HERE. THIS CONCLUSION IS CRITICAL TO OUR POLICY
RECOMMENDATION THAT RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THE
GOI OR ITS POSSIBLE SUPPLIERS FROM PROCEEDING WITH THE
DPSA PROJECT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE
INTRODUCTION OF NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY THROUGH THE
OPTIONS WITH WHICH THE DPSA COULD BE FITTED. WE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 NEW DE 03357 021209Z

THEREFORE AGREE WITH ISLAMABAD THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S
ANALYSIS SHOULD COMPARE THE MIRAGE V AND THE JAGUAR.
AT THAT POINT WE SHALL BE BETTER ABLE TO CONSIDER
WHAT OUR APPROACH TO THE GOI AND/OR THE EUROPEAN
SUPPLIERS SHOULD BE.

2. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDIANS, BOTH

MILITARY AND GOI, ARE AWARE OF OUR APPREHENSION AND CONCERN THAT THEIR DPSA PROJECT MIGHT RESULT IN AN ESCALATION OF THE REGIONAL ARMS RACE. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA AND NOTED THAT HE FOUND IT PUZZLING THAT INDIA WOULD MAKE THIS SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURE WHICH WAS LIKELY TO RESULT IN AN EFFORT BY PAKISTAN TO STRENGTHEN ITS AIR FORCE. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT IN SUCH A CASE THE GOP WAS LIKELY TO TURN TO THE US. METHA MADE NO REPLY TO THE AMBASSADOR.
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE03357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-0805
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803115/aaaadtgs.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 36ddb9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI A-36, 78 ISLAMABAD 2041
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3141425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN ACQUISITION OF DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, MARR, IN, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/36ddb9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014